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LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith a letter dated 7 August 1992 from Mr. Mohammed Said al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the decisions taken by the Sanctions Committee.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annexed letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, referred to above, distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abd al-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 7 August 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

The arbitrary decisions which the Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990), known as the Sanctions Committee, continues to take have adversely affected the life of 18 million Iraqi people.

These decisions can only be described as violations of the principles of international humanitarian law and as infringements of the most elementary principles of human rights.

The work of the above-mentioned Committee and the decisions emanating from it have become far removed from the purposes for which the Committee was established. This is mainly attributable to the hegemony exercised by the United States of America and its allies over the work of the Committee. The effects of the Committee's decisions on the life of the Iraqi people clearly reflect the hostile objectives and intentions for which the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France are working; their aim is to starve the Iraqi people and deprive it of the most elementary basic necessities, which is incompatible with the noble purposes set forth in the United Nations Charter which, in its Preamble, affirms faith in fundamental human rights and the necessity of safeguarding human dignity. How can the United Nations safeguard human dignity when one of its committees continues to take decisions aimed at starving the Iraqi people?

What occurred in the Sanctions Committee at its 74th meeting on 24 July 1992 is a glaring illustration of the tyranny and injustice that has befallen the Iraqi people, to say nothing of the series of decisions taken by the Committee at earlier meetings. Some of the requests that were rejected by the Committee are enumerated below.

1. Because of objections by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom, the Committee rejected the request of the Netherlands delegation for the firm P. den Ovden B.V. to export cowhides to Iraq for the State Establishment for the Leather Industry, the Al-Rashid Company.

2. Because of the objection by the United States representative, the request made by the Mission of Jordan for the Jordanian company Oasis Trading to be allowed to supply Iraq with 15 tons of polyester sewing thread, used in the manufacture of sacks, was rejected.

3. The Committee rejected the request by the Turkish delegation for authorization to export:

(a) 600 tons of constructional wire, because of the objection by the United Kingdom representative, who asked for information concerning the end user;

(b) 500 units of salt for the salinization of leather, because of the objection by the United States representative.

4. Because of the objection by the United Kingdom representative, the request by the Turkish delegation for Turkish exporters to be allowed to export compressors for refrigerators was rejected.

5. Because of the objection by the United States representative, the request by the Pakistani delegation for permission for the firm Haji Ayoob and Company to be allowed to supply tents to the Iraqi State establishment for Ready-Made Wears in Mosul.

6. Because of the objection by the United Kingdom representative, the request by the ALRAM TriGeneral Trading Company of Jordan to supply Iraq with 25,000 sheets of single-sided teak fancy plywood was rejected.

7. Because of the objection by the United States representative, the request by the Al-Qabas Trading Establishment of Jordan to supply Iraq with 500 motor vehicle tyres was rejected.

8. Because of the objection by the United States representative, the request by the firm Mashawir Mustapha Shahadah to supply Iraq with 6,000 type BP14 bicycles was rejected. The same representative, together with the representative of the United Kingdom, also objected to the export to Iraq by the Jordanian company Bashar Darwish of spare parts for agricultural machinery.

9. Because of the objection by the United States representative, the request by the Jordanian delegation for the Hatem and Basem Darwazeh Textile Company to supply Iraq with white cotton for medical use was rejected; on the pretext that it would enhance Iraqi industry, the representative requested information on the type and quality of the cotton.

10. Because of the objection by the United Kingdom representative, the request by the Jordanian company ERINA Trading Organization to supply radio cassettes to Iraq was rejected; the same representative also requested a reduction in the total of some half a million lamps which that company wished to supply to Iraq.

The above-mentioned equipment, which was disallowed by the Sanctions Committee at its recent meetings, do not endanger international peace and security, nor do they endanger the interests of the United States and the United Kingdom in the region. Nor can it be imagined that either the spirit or the letter of the provisions of the United Nations Charter prohibit the supply of such items to any country at all unless there were a premeditated political intention of preventing the Iraqi people from obtaining its essential needs and denying it the possibility of living in accordance with the humane requirements of the present day.

In conclusion I should like to request you to endeavour to intervene in order to put a halt to these practices, which are incompatible with all humanitarian considerations, so as not to impair the credibility of the United Nations, whose reputation is harmed by such practices.

I should also be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as an official document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs